SECRET WARRIORS

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Months ago, Norman Osborn dissolved S.H.I.E.L.D. and replaced it with H.A.M.M.E.R. Under Nick Fury's orders, Dum Dum Dugan has begun mobilizing an army of former S.H.I.E.L.D. operatives to join his old team of Howling Commandos and Fury's new class of Secret Warriors.

What began for Fury as a battle of right and wrong has turned into a war on many fronts. Osborn has allied himself with HYDRA's Baron von Strucker and his merciless team of killers to destroy the Commandos, but they have found little success.

Madame Hydra has shown her true allegiance by killing Viper and giving the Russian organization Leviathan the mysterious box Hydra had worked so hard to obtain. Now Leviathan has used the box to revive the once fallen Orion, who has declared it time to settle lingering scores with Baron von Strucker and Fury.

With HYDRA distracted, Fury mobilizes the Commandos and the Secret Warriors. However, now that Fury has cut one of Quake's fellow Warriors loose against her wishes, Daisy finds herself struggling with her obligation to follow his command.

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PROVIDENCE.
FURY SECRET BASE #21.
OKAY. WHAT YOU GOT, KID?
ENOUGH TO BEAT YOU.
YOU'RE CHEATING ME, AREN'T YOU, ALEX?
YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE BOTH HOLDING EVERY TIME, RIGHT?
ALWAYS.
BUT IN THIS I'M NOT CHEATING, AND I DON'T NEED HELP TO BEAT YOU...
...AT ANYTHING.
HEH. ALL RIGHT, HERE WE GO AGAIN-- AROUND THE WORLD.
PSSHH!
DEAL ME OUT...WHO WANTS ANOTHER ONE?
I'LL TAKE ONE.

THIS IS NICE. TEAM BUILDING...
BUT JUST SO EVERYONE KNOWS... WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT SEBASTIAN...
I NEED TWO.
THERE'S NO SENSE IN PUTTING IT OFF.
JUST SO EVERYONE KNOWS...I HAVE NO PROBLEM KICKING AN 11-YEAR-OLD'S #$%.
IT'S TRUE, ALEX...SHE'S A WORLD-CLASS BULLY.
DO WHATEVER MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, DAISY.
...
FINE. HERE'S THE DEAL: FURY DIDN'T THINK SEBASTIAN WAS CUTTING IT, SO HE SENT HIM PACKING...
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
AND THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE AROUND HERE?

DON'T ACT LIKE THERE ISN'T AN ARGUMENT TO BE MADE THAT HE WASN'T PULLING HIS WEIGHT, JERRY.
THAT'S NOT MY POINT, YO-YO.
I KNOW...
BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT THERE'S A GOAL TO BE ACHIEVED HERE.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU CHOOSE TO LOOK AT THINGS.
A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, I WENT AND SAW MY FATHER.
IT WAS UGLY... AND IT REMINDED ME HOW ALONE--HOW DAMAGED-- I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
FOR MOST OF US-- AND THIS IS THE REALITY OF OUR SITUATION--WE'RE JUST THE ABUSED CHILDREN OF VERY POWERFUL... VERY BAD MEN.
IT'S GOOD THAT NICK FURY CAME ALONG AND GAVE US A PURPOSE... IT IS.
BUT THE LARGER, MORE PERSONAL, QUESTION WE HAVE TO ANSWER IS, ARE WE GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE A BUNCH OF DYSFUNCTIONAL INDIVIDUALS...
OR ARE WE GOING TO OVERCOME THAT--
--AND BE A GROUP THAT LOOKS OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER.
A FAMILY.
IS EVERYONE ON BOARD WITH ME DEMANDING THAT FURY BRING SEBASTIAN BACK?

SHOW OF HANDS, PEOPLE.
FINE.
AND WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
I'M A PRAGMATIST.
YOU KNOW HOW HE IS.
YOU DON'T THINK HE CARES?
I KNOW BETTER THAN TO THINK IT FACTORS INTO HIS DECISION MAKING.
...
I'M DOING IT ANYWAY.

LONG WINTER.
LEVIATHAN BASE.
THE DOCKING AREA IS CLEAR, LORD KRAKEN.
I WANT A SITREP FOR THE REST OF THE BASE IN FIVE MINUTES.
YES, SIR.
CAN YOU SMELL IT IN THE AIR...?
DEATH... AND THE DREAD THAT SURELY FOLLOWS.

WHOEVER WAS HERE HASN'T BEEN GONE LONG-- THE BASE WAS VACATED IN THE LAST SEVERAL HOURS.
WE DISCOVERED A COUPLE OF CLOAKED ASSASSINATION SQUADS... WE'VE DEALT WITH THOSE. A MORE THOROUGH SWEEP IS PROGRESSING...
OVER HERE!
IT'S VIPER.
CHECK THE BODY.
SEE IF IT'S RIGGED.
SHOT AT CLOSE RANGE...
YES... WHOEVER COULD HAVE DONE THAT?
I FOUND THIS, BARON.
HOLOGRAPHIC RECORDER.
SOMEONE LEFT A MESSAGE.

GREETINGS, AGENT OF HYDRA--
--I AM ORION OF THE LEVIATHAN HORDE...
THIS IS A MESSAGE FOR BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER, PLEASE SEE THAT HE RECEIVES IT...
NOW AWAITING VOICE AUTHORIZATION.
MY GOD... IT'S VIKTOR UVAROV.
ACCESS GRANTED.
HELLO, OLD FRIEND...
IT SEEMS THAT WHILE I HAVE BEEN... INDISPOSED, RECENT EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED THAT MAY HAVE CAUSED CONFUSION--AND POSSIBLY OBSCURED MY VISION FOR MY ORGANIZATION AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HYDRA.
IN THE HOPES OF PREVENTING FURTHER ESCALATION OF THIS SITUATION, MAY I SUGGEST A TEMPORARY STAY OF HOSTILITIES AND A MEETING TO RECONCILE ANY DIFFERENCES THAT MAY HAVE ARISEN WHILE I SLEPT.
AND WHILE I HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO HIDE THE DEATH OF YOUR COLLEAGUE, I KNOW THAT IT DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO MY OVERTURE HAVING CREDIBILITY...TO THIS END, I AM HAPPY TO SCHEDULE OUR MEETING SOMEPLACE WHERE YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.
LET'S SAY, THE CROWN. IN THREE DAYS.
YOU CANNOT TRUST HIM. HE IS...
GODS!

22 YEARS AGO.
WE WERE ORPHANS.
LITTLE GIRLS, ALL ALONE.
HYDRA GAVE US A HOME.
EIGHT GREAT HOUSES.
TWELVE GIRLS TO A HOUSE.
19 YEARS AGO.
AND IN THE END, THE MOST DETERMINED...
15 YEARS AGO.
THE MOST AMBITIOUS...

12 YEARS AGO.
THE MOST AGGRESSIVE...
THAT GIRL WOULD BE THE VIPER.
8 YEARS AGO.
ALL IT COST WAS EVERYTHING.
6 YEARS AGO.
I HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO A MAN I HATED.
4 YEARS AGO.
I COULD NOT MARRY THE MAN I LOVED.

3 MONTHS AGO.
I BETRAYED HIM.
2 DAYS AGO.
AND I WAS BETRAYED IN TURN.
YESTERDAY.
THEN, I WAS MURDERED.
DEATH, WELCOME AND WELL-DESERVED.
BUT HYDRA, IT SEEMS, WILL NEVER BE DONE WITH ME...
TO LIVE, AND DIE AND LIVE AGAIN.

AH!
HAIL HYDRA...
IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT IS THIS?
NO. NEVER THAT.
INDEED.
THE VIPER RETURNS FROM THE FOREVER DARK.
NO...
...NOT VIPER...

MADAME HYDRA.

TAMAYA RESORT.
NEW MEXICO.
YOU KEPT ME WAITING.

AIN'T SOME THINGS WORTH WAITIN' FOR?
YOU LOOK TIRED, CONTESSA.
I WONDER WHY THAT IS?
AND YOU LOOK GOOD...WELL-RESTED.
BUT I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T GET USED TO IT. YOU BEING A MAN OF ACTION AND ALL THAT.
I WANT YOU TO STOP THIS.
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY?
AM I SUPPOSED TO PRETEND THAT ISN'T WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOIN' FOR YEARS?
OH, MY...YOU NAUGHTY MAN. IS IT POSSIBLE YOU KNOW ABOUT MY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES? IS IT POSSIBLE YOU KNEW AND CAME HERE ANYWAY?
NOW...WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YOU KNOW. I'M A ROMANTIC.

WELL THEN, NICKY...
...THIS [redacted] GOING TO ABSOLUTELY BREAK YOUR HEART.
YOU KNOW, THERE WAS [redacted] TIME, WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, THAT I WOULD HAVE SIMPLY LOOKED AT A SITUATION LIKE THIS AND MADE A DECISION THAT GUARANTEED THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME.
I'M SORRY, DEAR... THE TRUTH IS THAT I WOULD HAVE HAD YOU KILLED.
BUT, AS I'VE GOTTEN OLDER, I FIND THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS--ABOUT CERTAIN PEOPLE--THAT I NEED TO UNDERSTAND...
YOU SEE, I WONDER HOW MUCH OF THIS IS *MY* FAULT?
I HAVE QUESTIONS LIKE: WE[redacted] YOU *ALWAYS* A LIAR...OR DID I TEACH YOU TO LIE, AND NOW IT'S JUST WHAT YOU DO?
CONTESSA... I NEED *ANSWERS*...

'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN KEEPIN' SECRETS, DARLIN'...
AND THAT'S SOMETHIN' I CANNOT ABIDE.
HMMM.
NICHOLAS, NEVER DOUBT YOU ARE THE MOST ATTRACTIVE MAN I HAVE EVER MET.
I'M NOT $%$#@$ PLAYIN'.
WHAT ABOUT "THERE IS NO GREAT PHILOSOPHY FOR HUMANITY"? WHAT ABOUT "THE WORLD BEING TOO COMPLEX AND EVERYTHING BEIN' SUBJECTIVE"?
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE CRAP YOU SAID TO ME, IN THIS PLACE, THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE?
FINE. TOTAL HONESTY FOR A MOMENT.
I DO CARE FOR YOU, NICK. THAT'S REAL. IT HAS BEEN FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
BUT YOU KNOW WE ARE BOTH MORE CONCERNED ABOUT IDEOLOGY THAN MATTERS OF THE HEART. WE'RE PRODUCTS OF OUR GENERATION...AND AFTER A WHILE, YOU SIMPLY ARE WHAT YOU ARE.
AND THAT'S ALL.

THEN WE'RE DONE HERE, AREN'T WE?
IN THE FUTURE... WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER SOMETHING.
YES?
I BROUGHT YOU YOUR DAMN FLOWERS.

PROVIDENCE.
FURY SECRET BASE #21.
NICK, HEY... YOU LOOK NICE.
...
ANYWAY... I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE.
TALK.

I'LL... WELL, SO I WAS CHATTING WITH THE TEAM ABOUT SEBASTIAN, AND...
THE ANSWER IS NO.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO...
NO.
THIS IS WRONG...THIS ISN'T HOW IT SHOULD BE.
GOOD GOD, GIRL...GET IT TOGETHER.
I'M PREPARIN' YOU TO BE SOMETHIN'...
BUT YOU NEED TO WAKE UP AND REALIZE THAT THIS BUSINESS WE'RE IN, NOBODY GIVES A DAMN ABOUT YOUR HEART, OR HOW YOU "FEEL" ABOUT "THINGS"...
YOU THINK YOU GET A HAPPY ENDING JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT ONE?
GROW UP, DAISY.

IT'S COMING TO ME...I CAN ALMOST SEE IT... THERE!
SIXTY-SEVEN.
YOU'RE ON!
HEY, DAISY... YOU GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT. ALEX BET EDEN THAT HE COULD GUESS THE EXACT NUMBER OF MARSHMALLOWS IT TAKES FOR HIM TO BOOT IT. MY MONEY'S ON THE...
WUF!
WHAT THE...
YOU BETTER HAVE MEANT EVERY WORD YOU SAID, JAMES.

To Be Continued...